

Appl. No. 09/848,158
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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated December 30, 2003. Applicants submitted a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the requisite fee (\$770.00) on June 10, 2004. The office contacted the applicants regarding the RCE amendment, informing applicants that the amendment was not in accordance with the revised amendment practice before the office. A supplemental amendment was filed on June 22, 2004 as well as a petition for a three-month extension of time and a fee of \$950.00. This amendment is a supplemental amendment to the amendment filed June 22, 2004.

Reconsideration of the above-indicated patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed December 30, 2003. Claims 1-51 had been rejected. Accordingly, various claims have been amended or cancelled and supporting remarks are presented herewith that particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as his invention.

No new matter has been added. The redundant communication links are described in the original specification on page 8, lines 22-29. The redundant control and monitoring claim elements are described in the original specification on page 5, lines 12-23 and page 8, lines 10-12.

I. Claims 28-42 and 52-68 should be patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the cited prior art.

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-3, 7-11, 13-14, 28-30, 34-38 and 40-41 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 00/17984 to Woolard et al. (Woolard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,332 to Conkright et al. (Conkright). This grounds of rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the amended claims.

The Examiner had once again rejected claims 19-25, 4, 5, 31-32 and 43-49 under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the base combination of Woolard et al. in view

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of Conkright et al., further in view of Townsend (WO 01/22177). Claims 6, 12, 33 and 39 are again rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the base combination, further in view of Steen et al. (WO 00/62136). Claims 15-17 and 42 are again rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the base combination, further in view of Runyon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,969,642). Claim 18 is again rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the base combination, further in view of Norman et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,243,340). Claims 26, 27 and 50-51 are again rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over the base combination, further in view of Townsend and Moore (presumably U.S. Pat. No. 5,877,961). These grounds of rejection are also respectfully traversed, particularly as applied to the amended claims.

Independent claim 28 as now amended contains the element of a redundant secondary processing system in communication with the airfield approach lighting system for monitor and control thereof, wherein the redundant secondary processing system accesses said primary processing system from a remote location disposed on the global communication packet-switched network such that said airfield approach lighting status information is accessed from the remote location. Independent claim 57 as now amended contains the element of accessing the airfield system information from a central control center at a remote location, the central control center comprising a redundant secondary processing system for monitor and control of the airfield system. Independent claim 66 as now amended contains the element of a redundant control means for controlling the first airfield lighting system and the second airfield lighting system located at a remote location from the first airport and the second airport. By contrast, Woolard teaches a "central energy and facilities management system" for controlling one or more facilities (page 8, lines 4-8) that can be accomplished at a single location (page 2, lines 14-17). Woolard does not teach, suggest or show a system with a controller at each airport and a redundant system at remote location as now claimed.

The aforementioned deficiencies in the teachings of Woolard is not remedied by any teaching of Conkright. Therefore independent claims 28, 57 and 66 should be patentable over the cited prior art. In addition, claims 29-42, 52-56, 58-65, 67 and 58 are

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directly dependent from the claims and therefore contain each and every element of the these claims. Thus, for the reasons already set forth for claims 28, 57 and 66 claims 29-42, 52-56, 58-65, 67 and 58 should also be patentable over the cited prior art.

In addition to the aforementioned reasons, claims 55-56, 64-65 and 67-68 also include redundant communication links. Neither Woolard nor Conklin teach, suggest or show this element.

In addition to the aforementioned reasons, claims 54-55, 63-64, and 67-68 include additional airports with additional systems, each of the additional systems having a local controller and being coupled to the redundant control. Neither Woolard nor Conklin teach, suggest or show this element.

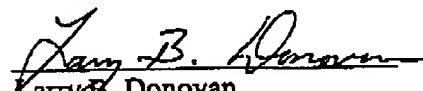
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the present application distinguishes over the prior art, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes there are any further matters, which need to be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 74953/11664.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to Examiner Brian Swartz at fax no. 703-872-9314 on the below date with the Mail Stop Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450..

Date: 7-2-04

by: Amy E. Gagich
Name: Amy E. Gagich

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